Four and Twenty Queries

Relating to

The East-India Trade.

1. Since ſome very good Friends, of both *Old* and *New Stocks*, are endeavouring, by all honeſt ways, to ſupplant us, and in order thereto, are *Writing*, *Pleading*, and *Printing* their Caſes; and ſince *Lovers* have always the Liberty to ſpeak, why may not I as well *Print* and *Plead* my Caſe; For I am ſure I have as much, *nay more* reaſon to do it than they?

2. If theſe two contending Stocks be made one, and the *Engliſh Manufactures* Caſe be not taken ſome care of, I can, without Conjuring, plainly foreſee, That they, and ſome other *Folks*, ſoon *Rain'd* will be; And therefore pray, Mind what I ſay; If not for their ſakes, for your own, be pleas'd to take care on't.

3. Was not much more demonſtrable, That the *Eaſt-India* Trade is of greater advantage to *England* than 'twas ten Years ago; For ſince that time, it has in a great meaſure Ruined the *Canterbury Silk Trade*, and obliged moſt of the *London Silk Weavers*, *Throwſters*, &c. to give over their former Trades and Employments?

4. Will not this be of great Advantage to all the *Clothing Counties* in *England*, becauſe ſome of theſe poor People, rather than ſtarve, are gone to *Ireland*, and ſet up Trade there; others ſpin on *Combs*, *Card*, and *Spin*; make *Cloths*, *Stuffs* and *Serges*; who being at the Principal Market, can make and ſell them as well, or better, than the Country Weaver and Clothier can do?

5. Does not Sir *Joſ. Child*, who is well known to be Skilful in Trade, prove plainly, That the *Eaſt-India* Trade ought to be greatly Encouraged, when he tells us in Print, That *the Exportation of Foreign Commodities, eſpecially Foreign Manufactures, is the worſt Exports a Nation can be imployed in, and ought to be prevented as much as poſſible*? Diſcourſe of Trade. The Preface.

6. Does not the *Author* of the Eſſay on the *E. India Trade*, as ſufficiently proved it Gainful, not only to us, but all *Europe*, when he tells us, *They had been Ruined by a full Third than they now are, if the Trade had never been Diſcovered or Undertaken*; *and that it bears hard only upon this Country that Conſumes theſe Commodities*? Eſſay on the Eaſt-India Trade, page 14.

7. Is it not plain, That it bears not hard upon *England*, ſince it could not be proved (and I challenge any now to do it) That we Conſume at *Home*, in *Ireland*, or our *Plantations*, above the parts of ten: Or that in Foreign Parts (except our Plantations, *&c.*) the Conſumption exceeded one eighth part of the *Wrought Silks*, *Bengals*, and *Printed Callicoes*?

8. Since 'tis allowed this Trade is hurtful to *Europe*, and all are agreed in a General Peace, What if they ſhould agree to Baniſh it out of all their Dominions? But if not, Why ſhould we refuſe any part, Since *we have nothing from thence of ſolid Uſe*, (but) *Materials for Luxury, and periſhable Commodities, for our Gold and Silver, which is there buried*, as the ſame *Author* tells us? Page 1.

9. Is it not better we ſhould be at four or five hundred thouſand Pounds Charge *per An.* for *Indian Vanities*, having ſuch plenty of Money, than for the ſake of imploying our own *Poor*, upon our own *Wooll*, diſoblige ſeveral *Maids* and their *Miſtreſſes*, who would then be at a loſs how to Dreſs up *themſelves*, their *Chambers*, *Parlours*, and *Cloſets*?

10. Is it not our Intereſt (as the Eſſayer tells us) to wear theſe *Indian* Manufactures, becauſe they would ſoon bring down the price of our own ſo low, *That we may Export them to all Foreign Markets, and be able to under-ſell all Nations*; For (ſurely) they neither can, or will ever think of falling in their Prices as we do. Page 29.

11. Or if they ſhould, rather than leave off and *ſtarve*, ſell their Commodities as cheap as we, Pray what ſhall we get by this *Learned Advice*, ſince after all our Reducing, the *Indians* that Work for a Peny a Day, will outdo us all, unleſs we're reſolv'd to Work as Cheap, or Cheaper than they?

12. Will not the Falling the Prices reduce the Wages of the *Poor*, and by that means make the Nation grow *Rich*, ſince Sir *Joſ. Child* has very well obſerved, *That where ever Wages are high, throughout the whole World, it is an infallible Evidence of the Riches of that Country*; *And where Wages for Labour runs low, 'tis a proof of the Poverty of that Place*? Preface.

13. But if bringing down the Prices will be ſuch an Advantage, Why may we not as well ſend for the *Corn* we ſpend to the *Eaſt Country*, for theirs is much cheaper than ours? And then we may ſend our own *Corn* with our own *Cloth*, &c. to ſeek Abroad for a Market; Would not this ſoon Raiſe the Value of all the *Rents* and *Lands* in *England*?

14. And to ſave yet the more, employ the *Dutch Shipping*, for they always Sail much cheaper than we do, and then we may ſend our own *Ships* to all Foreign Nations, that either want, or will hire them, or elſe ſave the Building of more, to the much greater Preſervation of both our *Seamen* and *Timber*? 21

15. And if nought but cheap Working will vend our Commodities, let's to't in good earneſt, and Employ the *Twelve hundred Thouſand* which the Eſſay tells us receives Alms, which by the way is a very great Number, and ſhews how much we want the *poor Indians* to Work for us, and they ſure will Page 27.

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[illegible] Prices to-day, that when our Money is gone, the *Indians* will take none

[illegible] that this should Alter their Trades, and Fall Cant us by another *Essay*, with *Rhetorical Flourishes*, amuse them, and then by [illegible] Computation, &c. prove this cannot be; Or that 'tis our *Interest* it should [illegible] the *East-India* Trade?

[illegible] been great Gainers for many Years by the use of *Muslins* and *Callicoes*, [illegible] of the Profits of *Quilts*, *Callicoes*, *Muslin Cambricks*, and *Lawns*? For the first [illegible] for our Money and Bullion: The last were the Return of our own *Woollen Manufactures* [illegible] we can keep for our own use at Home.

[illegible] very great Trade, when we would not take off their *Cambricks* and [illegible] of Wollen, with which they now supply both themselves and their [illegible] we could yet have very well served them both for their *Money*? And [illegible] such Answer with so *easie* Encouragement?

[illegible] would be so blind as to take off the Duty from course *Callicoes*, which be[illegible] it is a very great Ease upon them; We could then also soon beat [illegible] the Use of their *Linnens*, which might be as much more for the *Profit* and [illegible]

[illegible] will soften the *Callicoes*, we're content they should double the Duties on all [illegible] they will Pay about 25 per Cent. And being such *Bulky Commodities*, [illegible] could in five such Small Cullices, or the Ladies wear them when they'll be [illegible] the Chairmen still Wages?

[illegible] Can any one think the *Parliament* may not have some regard to [illegible] Manufactures as they are? When to, with no very great *dif*[illegible] for the Ease of the Poor and all Protestant Families, would it not have been easier [illegible] Callicoes, which Foreign Trade Consumption, would it not have been easier [illegible] Bill? And think the Parliament have past an Act in fa[illegible] they are to do so much for the Principal Parts of the *Garments*?

[illegible] To your Wives to Mind, The Callicoes grand, For they are [illegible] So is Truth they say, And we willingly grant: But [illegible] Money, his part, Twenty Shillings and, I am very [illegible] They will not Marry, And cry out I am Mad.

[illegible] I shall in my Dress, So much Souls fill Pockets, [illegible] Callicoes and their Price: Therefore don't dislike, My Querie[illegible] Your Friend as *before*, To stand at your Door, To stand for [illegible] Of such Queries more, At half a Crown Score: Which you [illegible] you please.

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